

**March 15, 2004**

**Sault Ste. Marie International Bridge Administration  
Escort Policy and Pre-certification Permit Procedures  
Implementation Transition Plan**

***Goal:***

The goal of this transition plan is to provide for orderly implementation of the policy and permitting procedures with proper recognition of past driver experience and training.

***Background:***

Beginning April 1, 2004, the International Bridge Administration (IBA) will implement an updated escort policy and pre-certification permit procedure which will allow certain placarded vehicles to cross unescorted once the driver has applied for and received an IBA pre-certification permit card. Escort fees will apply for all training escorts with the following exceptions:

***Grandfather Rights Clause:***

If a driver applies for a permit before May 1, 2004, and proves he/she has crossed the International Bridge with a hazmat load at least three times between January 1, 2004 and the date of application (not later than May 1, 2004), the fee for the three escorts during training will be waived. All grandfather rights training escorts must be completed before May 1, 2004. All training escorts completed on or after May 1, 2004, will be charged the escort fee regardless of grandfather rights.

***Mackinac Bridge Authority Escort Permit Card Clause:***

If a driver applies for a permit before May 1, 2004 and provides a valid Mackinac Bridge Authority (MBA) Escort Permit Card, then expedited training will be given to the driver for an IBA pre-certification permit and escort fees will be waived. The driver will contact the maintenance supervisor to receive the expedited training and be issued an IBA pre-certification permit card. All MBA reciprocity training escorts that may be required by the Maintenance Supervisor, if any, must be completed before May 1, 2004. All training escorts completed on or after May 1, 2004, will be charged the escort fee regardless of MBA reciprocity rights.

The MBA and IBA escort permit cards are separate and independently managed programs and there is no reciprocation agreement actual or implied beyond this escort implementation procedure. The cards will be honored only by the bridge issuing the card. After the issuance of an IBA escort permit card, the driver's ability to maintain the card will not be influenced by the possession of a valid MBA card but will be based solely on satisfactory compliance with Michigan Motor Vehicle Code provisions and IBA bridge crossing rules.